



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
STATISTICS DIVISION
UNITED NATIONS

ESA/STAT/AC.268
UNCEEA/9/3

**Ninth Meeting of the UN Committee of Experts on
Environmental-Economic Accounting
New York, 25-27 June 2014**

**Letter to the Chairs of the Friends of the Chair Group on Broader Measures of
Progress**

(for information)

Dear Dr. Anant and Mr. Cuneo,

As you know, the Statistical Commission at its last session in March 2014 recognized the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting - Central Framework (SEEA Central Framework) as an important statistical framework for the Post 2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators. The United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA) was mandated by the statistical commission to provide vision, direction and leadership in the development of environmental economic accounting.

SEEA, together with the System of National Accounts (SNA), provides an important framework for monitoring and reporting related to the post-2015 development agenda, considering its focus on integrated economic, environmental and, to some extent, social information. The relevance and utility of SEEA in monitoring elements of sustainable development has been recognized in numerous instances. The High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda called for Governments to adopt SEEA so that the metrics obtained could be used to assess the impact of national development strategies, from a sustainable development perspective in a consistent manner across countries. The current discussion on the development of sustainable development goals as part of the post-2015 development agenda presents an important opportunity to take advantage of the strength of the SEEA, together with the SNA, in providing the core monitoring framework for the sustainable development goals and to mainstream its implementation in national statistical systems.

Dr. T. C. A. Anant,
Secretary and Chief Statistician of India
M/o Statistics and Programme Implementation
INDIA

Mr. Philippe Cuneo
Methodology, Statistical Coordination
International Relations Directorate
FRANCE

Given the role of the FOC group in building a work programme to develop broader measures of progress and in monitoring the ongoing development frameworks to ensure a robust statistical measurement approach is incorporated from the outset in preparations for the post-2105 development agenda, I am writing to you in my capacity as Chair of the UNCEEA to offer the Committee's expertise in support of the FOC activities. Considering its expertise, I would envisage the UNCEEA contributing in particular on issues related to the measurement of economic-environmental integration as well as methodologies for indicators on the environment and its relations to economic and human activities.

Thank you for your attention. I look forward to your favourable response and working with you in the very near future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "I. A. Ewing". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Ian Ewing
Chair, United Nations Committee of
Experts on Environmental-Economic
Accounting and
Deputy Australian Statistician
Australian Bureau of Statistics